

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 10-16 have been amended.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as allegedly failing to show all of the features specified in the claims. Applicant has amended claim 5 to address the objections. As a result, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claims 6-13 as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to address the objections. As a result, Applicants request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Geertman (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,131). Applicants traverse these rejections because Geertman fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, with respect to claims 1 and 15, Geertman fails to disclose or suggest at least the following limitations:

an image fiber body comprising a *plurality of cores* and having a twisted portion with a beginning portion, a middle portion and an end portion, wherein

the rate of twist in the middle portion is constant, the rate of twist gradually increases in the beginning portion and the rate of twist gradually decreases in the end portion.

Geertman discloses a method of making a single-core twisted optical fiber with low polarization mode dispersion, not the claimed plurality of cores. In addition, the rate of twist in the twisted portion of the optical fiber is not constant. The rate clearly changes at point B in Figure 3. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 15 be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 2, 5-14 and 16, they should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claims 1 and/or 15 for at least the same reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geertman. Applicants traverse these rejections because Geertman fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, these claims should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claim 1 for at least the same reasons described above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN: 10/648,275

Q76815

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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